

PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT ACT PROGRAM

Component: 50.30.523, 40.30.523

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Sciences Improvement Grant (Coverdell) Program, pursuant to Public Law 106-561, 107-272, and 108-405, provides federal funding to 18 accredited crime laboratories throughout California. The goal of the Coverdell Program is to improve the quality, timeliness, and credibility of forensic science services over current operations. Funds will be applied toward the objective of reducing backlogged forensic cases and improving the turnaround times for case analysis. In addition, Coverdell funds will be used to provide education and training in both technical and personal skills to California's forensic scientists to ensure that they can effectively perform their laboratory assignments.

In order to receive these funds, the crime laboratories must verify their accreditation status with a Forensic Crime laboratory organization or appropriate certifying body. The crime laboratories must also certify that they have a plan in place to conduct an independent external investigation into allegations of serious negligence or misconduct by laboratory employees or contractors.

A Budget Change Proposal has been submitted to reflect the increase in the Federal Award for FFY 2009/10.

FUNDS AWARDED

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Types of Funding</u>	<u>Total Funding</u>
FY 2008/09	Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Act (FSIA) FFY 2008	\$ 1,231,033
FY 2009/10	Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Act (FSIA) FFY 2009	\$ 1,724,294
FY 2010/11		Unknown

2008/09 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

During the first seven months of this reporting period, the eighteen crime laboratories reported approximately 210 forensic scientists trained.

2009/10 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Not Available

2010/11 PERFORMANCE STATISTICS

Not Available